MIT's Oldest and Largest Newspaper

thetech.com

The Tech
Established 1881

WEATHER, p. 2
THU: 91°F | 72°F Sunny.
FRI: 89°F | 73°F Mostly Sunny.
SAT: 84°F | 71°F Mostly Cloudy.

Volume 143, Number 13

Thursday, September 7, 2023

MIT Dining announces closure of Steam, Koch Cafés

Hayes: Closure due to "long-term financial issues that we could no longer ignore."

By Shiqi Cheng, Russel Ismael, Tina Zhang, and Jayashabari Shankar

The Steam and Koch Cafés, formerly located in Buildings 7 and 37 respectively, are permanently closing. In a statement to *The Tech*, Mark Hayes, Director of Campus Dining, said that Campus Dining "undertook several enhancements" to continue to make healthy food accessible across campus.

Rationale for Closure

According to Hayes, the rationale for closing the two cafes stemmed from "long-term financial issues," and Pulse Group's dining review. The Pulse Group is an external market-research firm hired to examine the performance of seven eateries on campus, including the Steam and Koch Café. Hayes highlighted that the financial issues were something that MIT Dining "could no longer ignore."

The survey cited multiple challenges facing these retail eateries, among them "competition from the increasing number of off-campus food options adjacent to campus and the lingering effects of the pandemic." Additionally, the study found that average monthly transactions at those seven MIT eateries "decreased by 42 percent between 2018 and 2022."

Hayes told *The Tech* that the cafés "had very low potential to increase usage" due to space constraints and the hybrid work schedules coming back from the pandemic.

Worker Displacement and Relocation

Hayes also noted that MIT Dining and Bon Appetit were taking measures to help the displaced workers from the two cafes. He wrote that the "top priority was ensuring that there would be open positions within retail and house dining available to displaced staff."

According to the statement, six of the nine total staff formerly employed at the Steam and Koch cafes have found new positions with Bon Appetit. The three remaining workers, Hayes said, "are working with Bon Appetit and the Local 26 union representing dining workers to be placed into new roles."

New Dining Alternatives

Hayes highlighted the "several enhancements" that MIT Dining has made to "make food more accessible, fresher, and tastier at campus eateries this fall." On Sept. 12, five retail eateries within the Stratton Student Center will open, including Tawakal Halal Café. According to Hayes, these eateries were "selected by students to join CommonWealth Kitchen's Launchpad."

Furthermore, Hayes stated that MIT Dining "hope[s] to announce a new grocery vendor that will take over the former LaVerde's space" in the Student Center. Hayes added that the Forbes Cafe in the Stata Center and Bosworth's Cafe in Lobby 7 have added new menu items that reflect global tastes and locally sourced goods. Hayes emphasized the convenience of these items and their costs, some of which are below ten dollars.

MIT Dining at Large

In his statement, Hayes wrote that MIT Dining intends "to make sustainable, long-term changes to house dining that are responsive to community feedback." Similar to the Pulse Group survey, Hayes says that "a house dining program review with a consultant" will begin this fall "to gather student input, assess food service needs, and identify opportunities for improvement aimed at balancing quality, cost, access, and financial constraints."

Hayes emphasized the importance of faculty, staff, student leaders, and other stakeholders as "thought partners" throughout the process.

The present meal plan structure was originally developed in 2019: however, the pandemic led to delays in full implementation until February 2022.

SOLE announces reopening timeline of the Student Center

In an email to the MIT community, Student Organizations Leadership and Engagement (SOLE) laid out a reopening timeline for the Stratton Student Center. The Student Center, which was closed in February due to water pipe explosions, has been undergoing renovations for the past seven months.

According to the email, food trucks will remain outside of the Student Center during lunch hours from Sept. 4-8 and Sept. 11. On Sept. 5, MIT staff regained building access to prepare for the larger reopening on Sept. 12. SOLE wrote that the reopening will encompass "staff offices, eateries, retail, and other spaces in the basement and on floors 1, 2, and 5."

The email said that there is ongoing "unanticipated mechanical systems work" that will prevent the third floor from returning to full operational status for the foreseeable future. However, the timeline projects for the fourth floor to be reopened in mid-October. Work will continue in other parts of the building until the end of the calendar year 2023.

— Alex Tang

MIT IS&T unveils new notification system

Mark Sillis, Vice President for Information Systems and Technology at MIT, wrote in an email to the MIT community Aug. 9, that the IST department is "implementing a new notification system called MIT Atlas Alert," which will provide "prompt notifications" of disruptions to IT services including internet, phone, and email.

Atlas Alert will be conveyed via email, the Atlas mobile app, and text messages, and is intended to reach the community through multiple channels in the event that one system is down.

Internet disruptions have occurred over the past school year. Sillis wrote that "we hope that prompt notification will reduce confusion and help to inform your planning as we share awareness and information on the extent of the issue."

— Alex Tang

IN SHORT

First Day of Classes was Sept. 6.

Registration Deadline is Sept. 8.

First quarter Physical Education and Wellness classes begin Sept. 11.

Last day to add half-term subjects offered in the first half of term (H1) is Sept. 15.

Student Holiday (No Classes) is Sept. 22.

The Tech's mailing lists have been shut down; use *tt-join@mit.edu* and the following mailing lists: *tt-news-editors@mit.edu; tt-opinioneditors@mit.edu; tt-photographyeditors@mit.edu; tt-arts-editors@mit.edu; tt-campus-life-editors@mit.edu; tt-science-editors@mit.edu; tt-sportseditors@mit.edu.*

Interested in joining *The Tech*? Email ttjoin@mit.edu

Send news and tips to tt-news-editors@mit.edu

KATE LU—THE TECH

Happy first day of classes!

SPORTS BLITZ

Sports is back! Read on about the latest news, info, and events regarding MIT sports.

NEWS, p. 3

ORIENTATION

See our photo spread about this year's Orientation!

PHOTO, p. 4

80 DAYS IN TAIWAN

Read on about CL editor Vivian Hir's reflections on MIT and Taiwan.

CAMPUS LIFE, p. 6

xkcd
A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM. MATH. AND LANGUAGE
by Randall Munroe

SECTIONS

Sports 3
Photo Spread. 4
Campus Life 6
Fun Pages 7

The Tech
Established 1881

Publisher
William Xu ’24

Editor in Chief
Srinidhi Narayanan ’24

Managing Editor
Arun Wongprommoon ’23

Executive Editor
Eunice Zhang ’26

NEWS STAFF

News Editor: Alexander Tang ’26; **Staff:** Kylee Carden ’23, Eva Ge ’26; **Meteorologists:** Phoebe Lin ’24 (Chief), Trinity Manuelito ’23, Amena Khatun ’23, Rine Pan ’24, Adrienne Lai ’25.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Editor: Ellie Montemayor ’26; **Staff:** Lindsay Reyes ’26.

ARTS STAFF

Editor: Anahita Srinivasan ’25; **Staff:** Mureji Fatunde G, Lani Lee G, Vyshnavi Vennelakanti G, Victoria Dzieciol ’23, Jamie Fu ’23, Nyssa Miller ’23.

PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Editor: Kate Lu ’25; **Associate Editor:** Maxwell Yun ’21; **Staff**: Rila Shishido ’23, Cady Boronkay ’24, Alexander Laiman ’24, Amina Abdalla ’25, Olivia Lee ’25, Alexa-Rae Simao ’25, Omar Orozco ’25, Melissa Jimenez Camejo ’25, Michelle Xiang ’26, Shinjini Ghosh G, Michele Gabriele.

CAMPUS LIFE STAFF

Editor: Vivian Hir ’25. Alor Sahoo ’26.

COPY STAFF

Copy Chief: Jyotsna Nair ’25; **Staff:** Michael V. Bhopaul ’24, Noura Attili ’26, Sabine Chu ’26, Geoffrey Enwere ’26.

BUSINESS STAFF

Operations Manager: Alvin Chen ’25; **Staff:** Julia Situ ’23, Christina Lee ’25.

SOCIAL MEDIA STAFF

Editor: Frankie Schulte ’24.

ADVISORY BOARD

Paul E. Schindler, Jr. ’74, Barry S. Surman ’84, Deborah A. Levinson ’91, Saul Blumenthal ’98, Daniel Ryan Bersak ’02, Eric J. Cholankeril ’02, Marissa Vogt ’06, Austin Chu ’08, Michael McGraw-Herdeg ’08, Marie Y. Thibault ’08, Angeline Wang ’09, Jeff Guo ’11, Anne Cai ’14, Jessica L. Wass ’14, Bruno Faviero ’15, Kali Xu ’15, Leon Lin ’16, Kath Xu ’16, Lenny Martinez Dominguez ’17, Charlie J. Moore ’17, William Navarre ’17, Emma Bingham ’19, Nafisa Syed ’19, Áron Ricardo Perez-Lopez ’20, Nathan Liang ’21, Joanna Lin ’21, B. D. Colen.

EDITORS AT LARGE

Senior Editors: Ben Kettle ’22, Caroline Bao ’23, Laura Schmidt-Hong ’23, Wenbo Wu ’23, Erika Yang ’23.

PRODUCTION STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Editor: Ellie Montemayor ’26. **Copy Editor:** Jyotsna Nair ’25.

The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Thursdays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations) and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are $50.00 per year (third class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. *Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available.* Entire contents © ***2023 The Tech***. *Printed by Graphic Developments, Inc.*

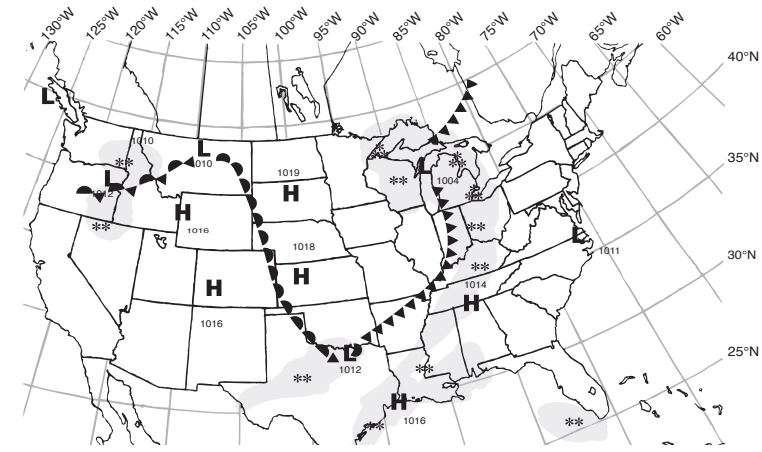
WEATHER

Sunny Start to the Semester

By Adrienne Lai

Welcome back to MIT! There will be lots of sun and warm temperatures (in the 90°F range) for the first week of classes! Clouds will creep in starting Saturday, bringing a 50% chance of rain on Sunday. This is quite reflective of how the semester tends to go; a bit of excitement to start followed by a quick downturn. Time to show the 2027s what they signed up for after the fun of REX and RUSH.

With the arrival of clouds, next week’s temperatures will be marginally lower (in the high 80°F range), so that’s something to look forward to for all of those in non-AC dorms. The winds will be approximately 10 mph and in the South direction primarily - maybe to blow some of MIT’s brainpower to the rest of Boston?

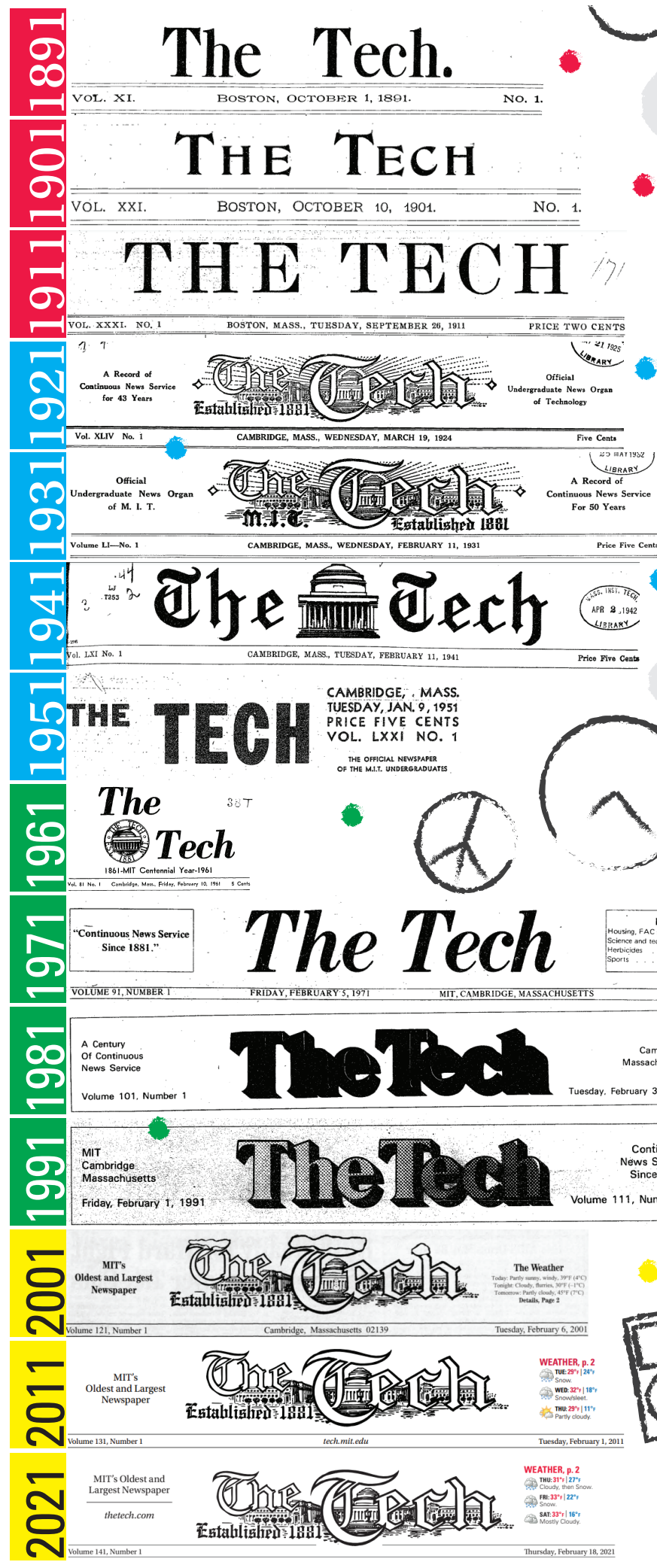


Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Thursday, September 7, 2023

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols			Other Symbols
H High Pressure	Trough		Snow	Rain	Fog
L Low Pressure	Warm Front	Showers	* ▽	• ▽	Thunderstorm
§ Hurricane	Cold Front	Light	*	•	Haze
	Stationary Front	Moderate	**	••	Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and *The Tech*
		Heavy	⁂	∴	

Extended Forecast

Today: Sunny with a high of 91°F (33°C). West winds around 5-10 mph.
Tonight: South winds 8-10 mph with a low of 72°F (22°C). Partly cloudy.
Friday: Mostly Sunny with a high of 89°F (32°C) and a low of 73°F (23°C). 9-14 mph South winds.
Saturday: High of 84°F (29°C) and a low of 71°F (22°C). Mostly cloudy with 8-11 mph South winds.
Sunday: 50% chance of precipitation with a high of 80°F (27°C). 10 mph South winds.


1891
The Tech.
VOL. XI. BOSTON, OCTOBER 1, 1891. NO. 1.
1901
THE TECH
VOL. XXI. BOSTON, OCTOBER 10, 1901. NO. 1.
1911
THE TECH
VOL. XXXI. NO. 1 BOSTON, MASS., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1911 PRICE TWO CENTS
1921
A Record of Continuous News Service for 43 Years
The Tech Established 1881
Official Undergraduate News Organ of Technology
Vol. XLIV No. 1 CAMBRIDGE, MASS., WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 1924 Five Cents
1931
Official Undergraduate News Organ of M. I. T.
The Tech M.I.T. Established 1881
A Record of Continuous News Service For 50 Years
Volume LI—No. 1 CAMBRIDGE, MASS., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1931 Price Five Cents
1941
The Tech
Vol. LXI No. 1 CAMBRIDGE, MASS., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1941 Price Five Cents
1951
THE TECH
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.
TUESDAY, JAN. 9, 1951
PRICE FIVE CENTS
VOL. LXXI NO. 1
THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE M.I.T. UNDERGRADUATES
1961
The Tech
1861-MIT Centennial Year-1961
Vol. 81 No. 1 Cambridge, Mass., Friday, February 10, 1961 5 Cents
1971
“Continuous News Service Since 1881.”
The Tech
Inside:
Housing, FAC surveys . . Pages 2,3
Science and technology . . . Page 4
Herbicides . . . . . Page 6
Sports . . . . . Pages 7,12
VOLUME 91, NUMBER 1 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1971 MIT, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS FIVE CENTS
1981
A Century Of Continuous News Service
Volume 101, Number 1
TheTech
MIT Cambridge Massachusetts
Tuesday, February 3, 1981
1991
MIT Cambridge Massachusetts
Friday, February 1, 1991
TheTech
Continuous News Service Since 1881
Volume 111, Number 1
2001
MIT’s Oldest and Largest Newspaper
The Tech Established 1881
The Weather
Today: Partly sunny, windy, 39°F (4°C)
Tonight: Cloudy, flurries, 30°F (–1°C)
Tomorrow: Partly cloudy, 45°F (7°C)
Details, Page 2
Volume 121, Number 1 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 Tuesday, February 6, 2001
2011
MIT’s Oldest and Largest Newspaper
The Tech Established 1881
WEATHER, p. 2
TUE: 29°F | 24°F Snow.
WED: 32°F | 18°F Snow/sleet.
THU: 29°F | 11°F Partly cloudy.
Volume 131, Number 1 tech.mit.edu Tuesday, February 1, 2011
2021
MIT’s Oldest and Largest Newspaper
thetech.com
The Tech Established 1881
WEATHER, p. 2
THU: 31°F | 27°F Cloudy, then Snow.
FRI: 33°F | 22°F Snow.
SAT: 33°F | 16°F Mostly Cloudy.
Volume 141, Number 1 Thursday, February 18, 2021

Hello!

Thanks for reading *The Tech*. It’s readers like you who made it possible to keep *The Tech* running for the past 140+ years.

Newspaper is dying!
Help extend its life!
Be part of history!

No experience needed
We have a wide array of departments - writing and non-writing - for all interests!

join@tech.mit.edu

SPORTS BLITZ

Friday, September 1st:
- **Women's Field Hockey** defeated University of New England 5-1
- **Men's Soccer** tied Haverford College 3-3
- **Women's Volleyball** defeated Vassar College 3-0 on the opening day of the Gordon Tournament
- **Women's Soccer** tied Brandeis University 1-1

Saturday, September 2nd:
- **Women's Field Hockey** defeated Gordon College 11-0
- **Women's Volleyball** defeated both Mount Saint Mary's College 3-0 and Gordon College 3-0. These wins gave the Engineers the Gordon Tournament title (this is the 12th time in 17 appearances at this tournament that MIT has finished first-place)
- **Football** defeated Bridgewater State 41-27
- **Women's Soccer** defeated Bridgewater State 2-1
- **Men's Water Polo** lost to Wagner College 10-11 and then defeats McKendree University 10-6 at the Bruno Invitational

Sunday, September 3rd:
- **Men's Soccer** lost to the University of Scranton 1-2
- **Men's Water Polo** defeated both Mercyhurst University 20-12 and Mount Saint Mary's College 19-17 at the Bruno Invitational

Tuesday, September 5th:
- **Women's Volleyball** defeated Suffolk University 3-0
- **Women's Soccer** defeated Trinity College 1-0

Wednesday, September 6th:
- **Field Hockey** lost to Endicott College 1-3
- **Men's Soccer** lost to Tufts University 1-4

MIT Neighborhood

Residence for Voting Purposes: Students

• Did you work in Cambridge this summer? (or)

• Have you made your MIT living group the center of your "domestic, social, and civil life"?[1]

Your true legal voting residence may be here in Cambridge.

Since 1974, most students attending MIT could choose to vote at their dormitory residence or at their parents' residence.[1] Some states are currently looking for ways to limit this.[2] One settled principle: you can vote where you live *now*. (Where you "habitually sleep" now, to be specific.)[1]

[1] Elections Div., Sec'y of the Commonwealth, *Residence for Voting Purposes* (2017) ("Basic Principles," "Change of Residence").

[2] *Cf., e.g.*, Rules for Determining Residence, Ga. Code Ann. § 21-2-217 (2022). Voter registrars may consider bank statements and "evidence of where the person receives significant mail."

James Herms
Cambridge Ward 5 Democratic ward committee member
Candidate for reelection, 2024
14 Lawrence St · Cambridge, MA 02139 · herms@alum.mit.edu

Ward 5 includes MacGregor, New House, Next, New Vassar, Simmons, Westgate, Tang, Edgerton, Warehouse, Ashdown, SidPac, pika, and most of Cambridgeport.

Do you think YOU can fit the page better than we did?
Join Production, Get Paid, Eat Dinner!

Upcoming Sports Events

FRIDAY 8

Women's Volleyball
vs Ithica College
6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY 9

Men's Cross Country
Maribel Sanchez Souther Invitational

Women's Cross Country
Maribel Sanchez Souther Invitational

Women's Volleyball
vs Keene State College
11:00 a.m.

Sailing
At Yale, Harvard, and MIT (Walter C. Wood Sailing Pavilion)
11:00 a.m.

Men's Soccer
At Umass Boston
1:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer
vs Illinois Institute of Technology
1:00 p.m.

Field Hockey
At Western New England University
1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY 10

Sailing
At Yale and MIT (Walter C. Wood Sailing Pavilion)
11:00 a.m.

Sailing
Women's Singlehanded Championship

TUESDAY 12

Field Hockey
At Tufts University
6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 13

Women's Soccer
At Roger Williams University
4:00 p.m.

Men's Soccer
At Roger Williams University
7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY 15

Women's Tennis
MIT Invitational
10:00 a.m.

Women's Volleyball
vs Pomona-Pitzer Colleges
At the Trinity Fall Classic
1:15 p.m. ET

Women's Volleyball
vs Whittier College
At the Trinity Fall Classic
5:45 p.m. ET

SATURDAY 16

Women's Lightweight Crew
vs CRI Fall Classic

Water Polo
vs Saddleback College
9:00 a.m.

Women's Tennis
MIT Invitational
9:00 a.m.

Sailing
MIT (Walter C. Wood Sailing Pavilion)
11:00 a.m.

Sailing
Open New England Singlehanded Championship
11:00 a.m.

Men's Soccer
at United States Coast Guard Academy
12:00 p.m.

Water Polo
vs Saddleback College
At the Connecticut College Invite
12:15 p.m.

Field Hockey
vs Smith College
1:00 p.m.

Football
at Curry College
1:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer
vs Mount Holyoke College
1:15 p.m.

Water Polo
vs University of Toronto
At the Connecticut College Invite
3:15 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
at Trinity University
At the Trinity Fall Classic
8:00 p.m. ET

SUNDAY 17

Sailing
Open New England Singlehanded Championship
11:00 a.m.

Women's Tennis
MIT Invitational
9:00 a.m.

Water Polo
vs Penn State Behrend College
At the Connecticut College Invite
9:00 a.m.

TUESDAY 19

Women's Soccer
at Tufts University
4:00 p.m.

Women's Volleyball
at United States Coast Guard Academy
6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 20

Men's Soccer
vs Wentworth Institute of Technology
5:00 p.m.

Field Hockey
at Amherst College
6:30 p.m.

Sol. to Manifesting Cold

from page 7

9	3	8	2	1	7	4	6	5
7	6	1	4	5	9	8	3	2
2	5	4	6	8	3	1	7	9
3	7	6	9	2	8	5	4	1
8	1	5	7	4	6	2	9	3
4	2	9	5	3	1	7	8	6
6	4	2	3	7	5	9	1	8
1	9	7	8	6	2	3	5	4
5	8	3	1	9	4	6	2	7

Sol. to Not a Sudoku

from page 7

3	5	2	1	6	4
1	3	6	5	4	2
6	2	5	4	3	1
4	6	3	2	1	5
5	1	4	3	2	6
2	4	1	6	5	3

Sol. to Spice Girls

from page 7

Sol. to On the Outside

from page 7

S	A	R	I	■	M	I	L	E	■	R	E	A	D	S
O	M	I	T	■	A	N	E	W	■	A	T	R	I	A
F	U	S	S	A	N	D	F	E	A	T	H	E	R	S
A	S	K	■	W	A	I	T	■	D	O	N	A	T	E
R	E	S	T	A	G	E	■	T	O	N	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	R	E	■	A	I	R	■	C	H	I	P
S	W	O	R	D	■	A	C	R	E	S	■	U	S	A
T	I	P	P	E	D	T	H	E	S	C	A	L	E	S
A	P	E	■	D	O	L	E	D	■	R	I	L	E	S
B	E	N	D	■	T	A	D	■	M	U	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	W	E	S	■	D	O	N	E	F	O	R
R	A	S	C	A	L	■	B	O	S	C	■	O	N	E
A	R	T	I	L	L	E	R	Y	S	H	E	L	L	S
S	M	E	L	L	■	T	A	L	E	■	R	I	O	T
H	Y	P	E	S	■	A	Y	E	S	■	R	O	W	S

KATE LU—THE TECH

First-year students participate in Water Wars, the annual REX water balloon fight between West campus and East campus dorms, August 29.

KATE LU—THE TECH

MIT Lion Dance, Ballroom Dance, and other clubs tell first-year students about their activities at Activities Midway.

First-year students enjoy a sweet midni cakes REX event, August 30.

MIT Orientation 2023

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH

Hundreds of first-year students explore clubs and activities at Student Activities Midway during Orientation, September 1.

KATE LU—THE TECH

MIT Video Game Orchestra performs student arrangements of video game music at Activities Midway.

KATE LU—THE TECH

MIT Strategic Games Society displays part of their extensive collection at Activities Midway.

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH

ight snack at Next House's Midnight Pan-

KATE LU—THE TECH

MIT Lecture Series Committee prepares freshly made popcorn for Activities Midway.

ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH

Tim the Beaver hits the dance floor with first-year students to celebrate the end of Orientation at the New England Aquarium, September

VIVIAN'S REFLECTIONS

80 Days in Taiwan

carpe diem, memento mori

By Vivian Hir
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

If there is one thing I still remember about my high school physics classroom, it is an inspirational poster I enjoyed looking at every so often. Displaying nice, colorful illustrations, the poster was about making the best use of our "eleven lifetimes." Sounds confusing? Let me explain. Taken from SMBC Comics, the poster says that while it is true that all of us will die one day, it is false that we only have one life.

In fact, we have multiple lives — eleven, according to the comic. The reasoning comes from the fact the average time it takes to master a skill is seven years. Therefore, if you live to the age of 88, after you turn 11, you have 11 lifetimes to master something. The comic suggests various skills one can learn in each life, from writing poetry to building things. The comic ends by encouraging readers to use the many lives they have.

Although it has been quite a while since I last saw this poster, I recently thought about its concept of having many lifetimes. It felt somewhat odd to have an old thought bubble up to the surface of my consciousness as if it had come out of nowhere. These sorts of things happen to me when I have random thoughts and think about the past, but this time the thought didn't drift away. It stuck.

The thought stuck in my head because I noticed that my limited time in Taiwan forced me to live with intention, as I viewed my summer in Taiwan as a mini life in and of itself. After staying here for more than two months, I thought about how I could loosely apply the poster's concept of eleven lifetimes by viewing my life as x number of lives, with each life having a start and an end. For instance, my summer in Taiwan this year is a life on its own: I was "born" on the day I arrived, and "died" the day I left the island. A more general example would be defining my time at MIT as a life lasting four years (five if I do the MEng).

The concept of dividing life into many small lives may sound morbid, as if I am constantly reminding myself of the Latin phrase memento mori (remember that you will die) when I don't need to. But how else am I going to live life to its fullest if I don't think about the fact that in my life, there are many stages, with each stage being finite?

If I view life as a continuous period with only one start and one end, then I will fail to grasp the idea that my time is quite limited, whether it is at a place or with a person. By the time I want to do things I always wanted to do, it will already be too late because of poor timing or other constraints. I don't want to have too many regrets at the end of my life. I am not going to be a young adult forever. My time in Boston is not guaranteed to last beyond graduation, depending on where the future will take me.

Having this mindset while living in Taiwan this summer has made my perception of time quite different from life at MIT. I live my life by counting down each day and week in both places. The major difference, however, is that the amount of time I had in Taiwan was a lot shorter than my time at MIT. Approaching my last days in Taiwan felt a lot more evident compared to college, as the passage of time in college is broken down into many semesters, a period that's much longer than a single summer.

Knowing that I only had 80 days in Taiwan, I tried to make the best use of my time by going to places I had always wanted to go to, visiting where I'd once lived, meeting people from my past life, eating everything I'd wanted to try before I left, and so on. As strange as it may sound, I felt like an old person approaching their last years, doing everything one could before it was time to say goodbye. Perhaps this feeling of being at a later stage in life came from the fact that I spent a part of my childhood in Taiwan, and one of the main reasons I did MISTI Taiwan this summer was to revisit my past.

Coming back to Taiwan seven years after I left during middle school encouraged me to reconnect with people that I hadn't talked to for so long, from elementary school friends to middle school teachers. It wasn't until I had less than a month left in Taiwan that I realized I didn't have much time. There were teachers to meet, cards to write, gifts to buy, and so much more. Given this fact, I emailed many friends and teachers I had when I lived in Taiwan, asking them what they were up to these days and whether they wanted to meet up. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to catch up with some friends and teachers before I left, from recounting random memories to expressing my thanks.

Part of my motivation for reaching out was to feel some sense of closure before I left Taiwan, as the process of writing these emails helped me come full circle by revisiting my past while embracing the present. Although I felt reluctant to reconnect with some because of how much I had drifted away, ultimately, I decided to reconnect because I asked myself this question: If this were my last chance, would I want to see them one last time?

The way I posed this question to myself may sound overly dramatic, but I truly don't know when I can come back to Taiwan again. Who knows if it will be when I am 25 or 30 or whatever. By that point, the many people that I know here will be gone. I couldn't say no to this question. I must admit, it was easy to let the fear of awkwardness hold me back at first. In the end, however, I decided to simply go for it. While I can see both sides of the argument when it comes to reconnecting with someone from the past, ultimately, I did not see a real disadvantage.

Even though it may feel daunting and uncomfortable at first, reconnecting with someone from the past was pleasant because it made me reminisce about simpler times and reflect upon what I was like in the past. Not only that, but also it was fulfilling to see that my emails brought a smile to their faces, as most were surprised to receive an email from me. While it was a lot of work to email nearly twenty people over a few days, I am glad that I let them know that I still thought of them despite being far away. In fact, I regret not reconnecting with people earlier as one of my childhood friends happened to be in Taiwan at the same time I was, but I wasn't aware.

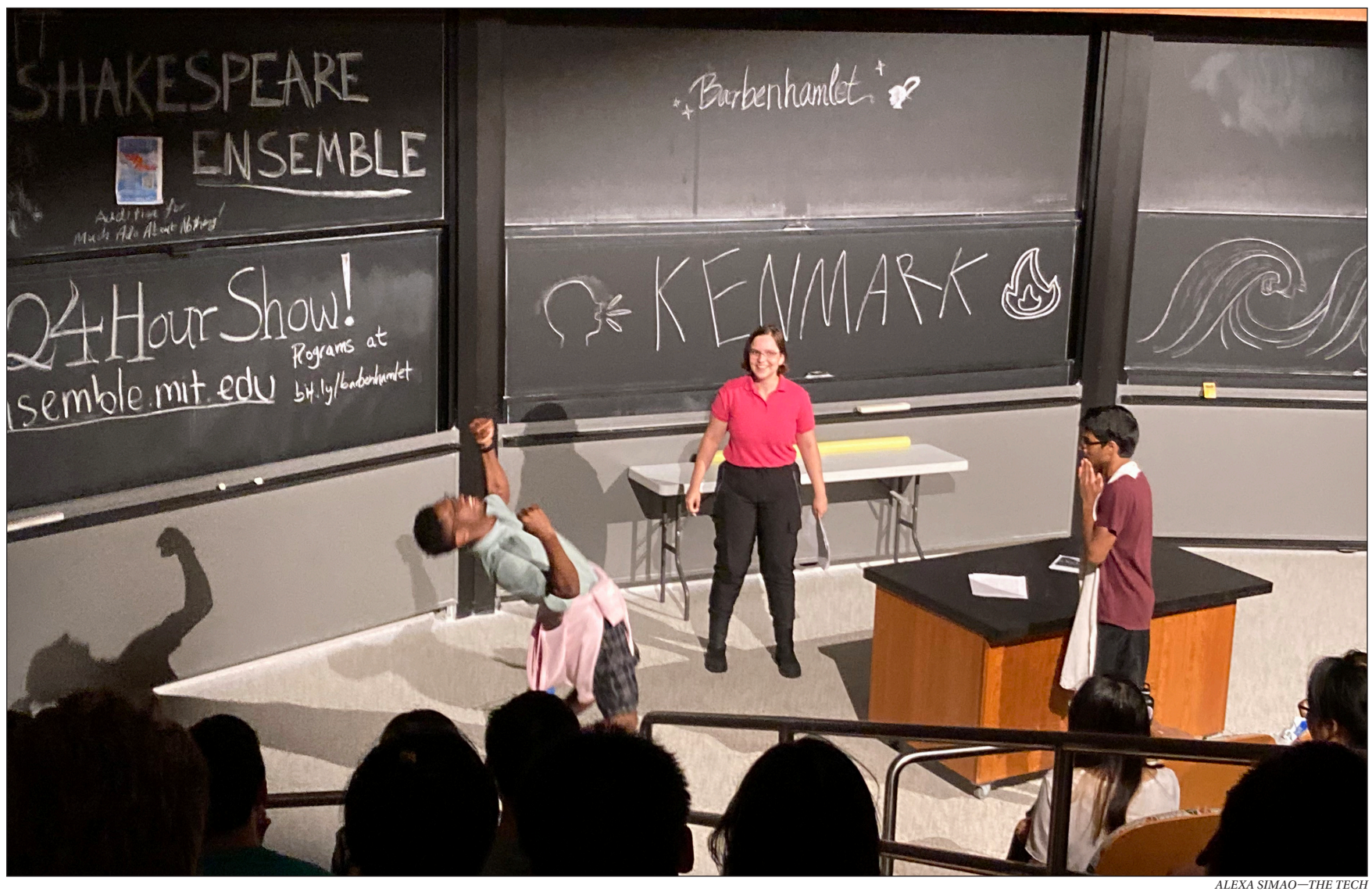
This feeling of reaching my "last days" reminds me of the summer before I left for college, a transition period wherein I cherished my last moments with high school friends and spent time exploring the Bay Area. I wonder if other students shared similar sentiments before going to college. I will probably feel this again when I reach my last semester at MIT, doing everything in my reach such that I can leave a place at peace, with an ending in which nothing is left unresolved: forgiving others, apologizing for past mistakes, ticking off the last few items on my bucket list, etc.

In the beginning, I had the assumption that coming back to Taiwan this summer would end all the nostalgia and longing for this place. I thought visiting the places where I lived and often frequented would be enough. I thought eating the foods I ate a lot as a kid would give me all the comfort that I desired so much. But this longing will never end. Yes, it's the same place that I remembered as a child, but coming back at a different stage of life provided new angles that I never expected to experience, whether it was learning new things about the local culture or talking to people from various walks of life.

I am happy to be back on campus, running along the Charles River and seeing my friends again, but I still think about Taiwan from time to time. The nostalgia persists, a quiet sound that constantly hums in the background. Taiwan is like a person that entered my life and left and then came back again, but I don't want to let go of them. Personifying my relationship with Taiwan sounds like an unhealthy one, as if I am emotionally attached or dependent. But what can I do about it? I want to experience both worlds (Taiwan and the U.S.), but I simply can't be in both places at the same time.

As my summer housemate said, "You love Taiwan by experiencing the place. You eat the local food, explore local attractions, immerse yourself in the culture, etc." What she said was so simple, yet so poetic. How do I show love for a place that I am thousands of miles away from? Maybe it's writing articles like this one, listening to Taiwanese artists, watching random videos about Taiwan on YouTube, etc. The indirect ways I express my love for Taiwan here vaguely remind me of what people do in long-distance relationships: sending words of appreciation, making Spotify blend playlists, sharing videos and pictures via text, the list goes on. As much as I would like to experience Taiwan using all my five senses, this is the best I can do here.

Although I believe that time heals, these feelings of nostalgia and longing will come back time after time. This year, I came back to Taiwan to revisit my childhood. The next time, I will come back to Taiwan to visit where I lived this summer, walking around the neighborhood I lived in and Academia Sinica, the place where I did research. And I will go back to visit where I lived even though I already did this year. And I will visit other places that hold meaning to me, from my early childhood home in Colorado to my adolescent home in California. While it is true that some of my lifetimes are already gone, each one ending faster than I would like, I still can revisit these past lives in the future, turning my head back to catch glimpses of my past self.



ALEXA SIMAO—THE TECH

MIT Shakespeare Ensemble performs their 24 Hour Show, "Barbenhamlet", in 6-120, Sunday, 3 September.

Manifesting Cold

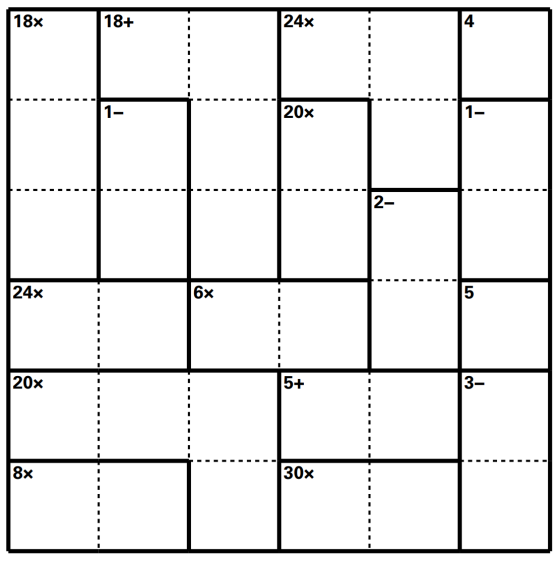
Solution, page 3

9							6	5
7		1			9		3	
2			6			1		
3	7	6		2			4	
	2			3		7	8	6
		2			5			8
	9		8			3		4
5	8							7

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Not a Sudoku

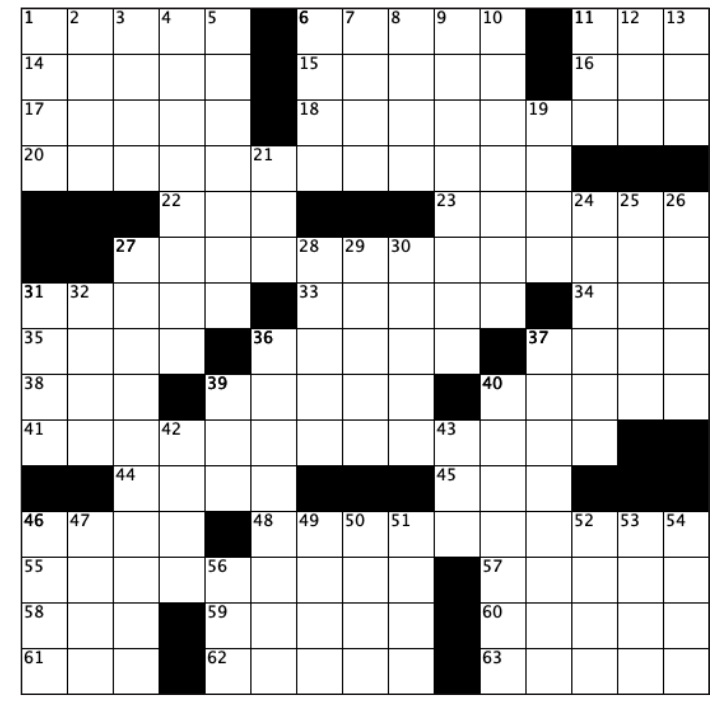
Solution, page 3



Instructions: Fill in the grid so each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Spice Girls by Manaal Mohammed ‘25

Solution, page 3



ACROSS
01 SeaWorld star
06 Ubers menschen alternative
11 Database lang.
14 Sign in
15 Acid that can be used to make slime
16 It’s all right for the French
17 2008 Vampire Weekend hit
18 French hand soap brand
20 “Top Hat” (1935) actress
22 CPR expert
23 One of many in a shower
27 Designer known as “the last remaining queen of Harlem drag balls”
31 Cut off communication with abruptly
33 Bounds alternative
34 Back muscle, shortly
35 Part
36 Moods
37 Mass ____
38 <3 alternative
39 Vibes
40 Rose
41 British celebrity chef
44 Repeated twice, a Sleigh Bells song
45 Put away
46 Letter-shaped beam
48 ‘90s band with hit “Wannabe”
55 One who might purchase clothes mainly to flex on others
57 Folder phrase
58 ___-la-la
59 Penetrate
60 Guy
61 “Arthur” airer
62 Discontinued Ford make
63 Under the rainbow?

DOWN
01 Loose one
02 Tribe native to southwestern Arizona
03 “son of ____”
04 Snake killers, according to the Panchatantra
05 Disheveled
06 Letter-shaped beam
07 Final initialism for some
08 Hand grenade
09 Empty spaces
10 Egyptian amulet beetles
11 Final initialism for some
12 Status ___
13 Basketball player Jeremy
19 Deserted locale
21 Audio and video transfer method over IP networks
24 Attack with others, say
25 “from _____ to a king”
26 It gnurls
27 Bullfighters?
28 Fat cat creator, hopefully
29 Kidney-related
30 Singaporean style of ramen
31 Cheshire Cat feature
32 Hindu festival
36 Give your 100% on
37 Cheater
39 It might be for one
40 Not charged
42 Emerald 19-down
43 Small in the 42-down
46 NY Cheescake Pancakes seller
47 Some party invite letters
49 Dabs
50 “Makes sense!”
51 C or V preceder
52 Cone-shaped chocolate with caramel inside
53 Lemon preceder
54 “Now!”
56 spelling ___

Haikus

by Eunice Zhang

SLEEP: PART 3

help, it’s me again
i am so sleep deprived whoops
not a surprise tho

no thoughts, only vibes
my head is giving empty
so true bestie slay

FALL SEMESTER

first day of classes
it do be a new school year
that’s kind of crazy

not feeling ready
so much stuff is happening
tryna stay grounded

MACGREGORUSSY

goodbye east campus
see you in two years, hehe
i miss you so much

now, looking forward
it’s time to appreciate:
macgregorussy

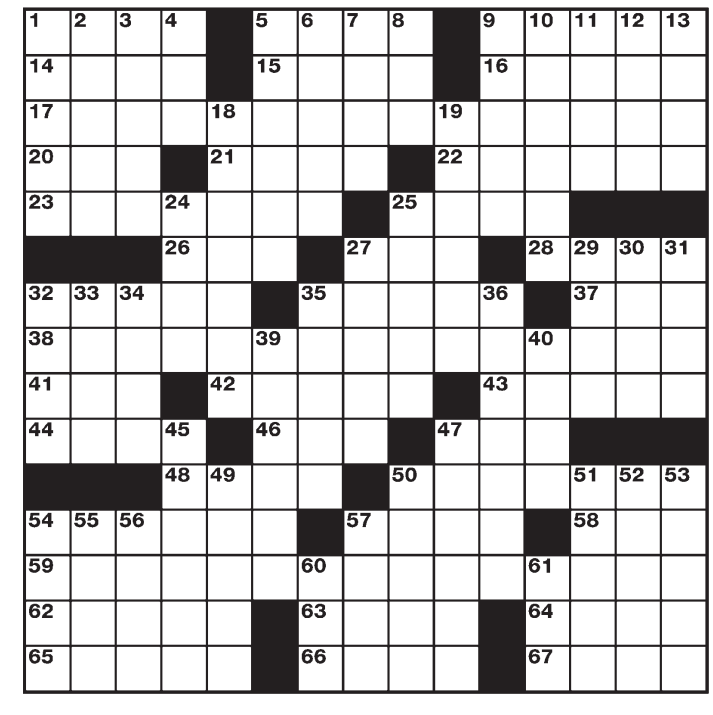
WEATHER

so warm and musty
just like me fr fr
boston goes crazy

it’s kinda nice though
remember to drink water
H2O poggers!

On the Outside by Fred Piscop

Solution, page 3



Across
01 Dress of India
05 Fraction of a marathon
09 Peruses
14 Choose not to include
15 All over again
16 Skylit hotel lobbies
17 Needless commotion
20 Be inquisitive
21 “Hold on!”
22 Make a gift
23 Put on again, as a show
25 Novelist Morrison
26 “Ready when you ___”
27 What fills a basketball
28 Casino token
32 Dueller’s weapon
35 Measures of 11 Down
37 Nation s. of Canada
38 Was the deciding factor
41 Chimp or gorilla
42 Rationed (out)
43 Makes angry
44 Give in a little
46 Tiny amount
47 Very wet ground
48 Is in debt
50 Without hope
54 Mischief maker
57 Type of pear
58 Dollar bill
59 Missile launcher ammunition
62 Detect, as an aroma
63 Colorful story
64 Very funny person
65 Publicizes heavily
66 “Yes” votes
67 Propels with oars

Down
01 As yet
02 Keep entertained
03 Takes a chance with
04 Part of TGIF
05 Be in charge of
06 Non-studio movie
07 Exited
08 Lamb’s mom
09 Boca ___, FL
10 Cuisine category
11 Surveyor’s calculation
12 Garden soil
13 RSVP enclosure
18, Bestowed, as a trophy
19 Idolizes
24 Waterproof covering
25 Needing to take a break
27 Had sore muscles
29 Ship’s framework
30 “Understood”
31 Decline to bid
32 Wild guess
33 Clean off with a towel
34 Unlock
35 Book of world maps
36 Squeeze into a ball
39 “I’m all ears”
40 Personal assistant
45 Tame, as petting-zoo animals
47 Green growths on tree trunks
49 Room boundaries
50 Sherlock creator Arthur Conan ___
51 Book printer’s sheet
52 At minimal power
53 Takes a break
54 Too quick to act
55 General’s troops
56 A ___ in the right direction
57 Donkey’s sound
60 Approximate landing hr.
61 Goof up

FUNFUNFUNF

FUNFUNFUNF